



Sean Rogan  
Executive Director

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**of the County of Los Angeles**

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**ADOPTED**

Community Development Commission

March 02, 2010

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MARCH 2, 2010

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR SERVICES COSTS FOR UNITED STATES  
VETERANS INITIATIVE - LONG BEACH HOMELESS MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT IN THE CITY  
OF LONG BEACH  
(FOURTH DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

This letter requests that your Board approve the transfer of up to \$200,000 in County General Funds, allocated to the Fourth Supervisorial District, to fund services costs for United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach Homeless Mental Health Project. Approval of the transfer will permit the County of Los Angeles to preserve the availability of services for homeless veterans.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

1. Authorize the Executive Director to transfer to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) up to \$200,000 in County General Funds (CGF) allocated to the Fourth Supervisorial District, following receipt of said funds from the Chief Executive Office (CEO), which will then be granted to the United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach (U.S. Vets – Long Beach) for homeless services for homeless and mentally ill veterans, to be administered pursuant to an Interagency Agreement between the Commission and LAHSA.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to incorporate up to \$200,000 into the Commission's approved Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget for this purpose.
3. Find that the transfer of funding is not subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because the action is not defined as a project under CEQA and does not have

the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The purpose of the recommended action is to transfer up to \$200,000 in CGF to LAHSA, which will grant the funds to the U.S. Vets – Long Beach to fund the continuation of supportive services customized for mentally ill homeless veterans on the grounds of the Villages at Cabrillo in Long Beach. These funds will support the provision of housing and services to participants at U.S. Vets – Long Beach's Homeless Mental Health Program for approximately one year at a capacity of 10 beds.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The actions described herein will be funded with a portion of the \$20,000,000 in CGF known as the Emergency Shelter Fund (ESF), approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 20, 2005, to fund the construction and/or renovation of year-round emergency shelters and enhancements to the homeless support system.

On November 22, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved allocating \$3,600,000 in CGF to each Supervisorial District with a ten percent administrative fee, in the total amount of \$2,000,000, reserved for the Commission.

The proposed transfer of funds from the Commission to LAHSA will allocate \$200,000 for homeless services specifically tailored for homeless veterans. These funds will be used to continue providing services to participants in the Homeless Mental Health Program, at 2280 Williams Avenue on the grounds of the Century Villages at Cabrillo, a former Navy base that houses different programs for homeless individuals and families. This program is currently supported with funds approved by your Board on October 16, 2007.

Up to \$200,000 in CGF will be incorporated into the Commission's approved Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget as needed.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

In order to address the staggering numbers of homeless individuals and families and the corresponding critical shortage of beds in Los Angeles County, on June 20, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved allocation of \$20,000,000 for the construction and/or renovation of year-round emergency shelters and enhancements to the homeless support system.

On November 22, 2005, the Board of Supervisors delegated authority to the Commission to administer the funding and oversee all of the projects. The Board also instituted a method by which each Board Office selects recipients of CGF based on agency experience and the need for homeless services in the community, among other considerations.

On October 16, 2007, the Board of Supervisors approved the transfer of \$400,000 in CGF to LAHSA, to be granted to U.S. Vets – Long Beach, to provide services for mentally ill homeless veterans in its Homeless Mental Health Program over two years.

Due to unexpected changes in the Department of Veterans Affairs grant requirements, the organization will not receive the anticipated funding to operate the program after the expiration of the

initial funding contract. As a result, U.S. Vets – Long Beach will not be able to support the program after June 30, 2010 without another funding commitment.

The Fourth District has allocated \$200,000 in CGF to support the continued provision of services in this program for an additional year.

The proposed transfer of funds from the Commission to LAHSA is a total of \$200,000 in CGF allocated to the Fourth Supervisorial District. LAHSA will administer and execute a contract with U.S. Vets – Long Beach for homeless supportive services including, case management, life skills, money management, and other services to improve the lives of approximately 20 men throughout the year. The transfer of funds to LAHSA will be effective following the Commission's receipt of CGF from the CEO.

A complete description of the U.S. Vets– Long Beach Homeless Mental Health Program is provided as Attachment A.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

This action is Exempt from the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pursuant to Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 58, Section 58.34 (a)(4) because it maintains public service activities that will not have a physical impact on or result in any physical changes to the environment. The action is not subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines 15060(c)(3) and 15378 because it is not defined as a project under CEQA and does not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

#### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of these actions will preserve the availability of transitional beds for homeless veterans by allowing the continued operation of this program.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Rogan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

SEAN ROGAN  
Executive Director

SR:kk

Enclosures

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**UNITED STATES VETERANS INITIATIVE - LONG BEACH**  
**HOMELESS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM**

United States Veterans Initiative is a private nonprofit corporation established in 1992 to address the unmet needs of homeless veterans. The United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach is situated on the grounds of the Century Villages at Cabrillo, a 26 acre former Navy base which is home to programs for residential substance use treatment, job reentry, dual diagnosis, and rental assistance for disabled and senior veterans. This arrangement is designed to address the multiple needs of Long Beach's homeless veteran community by helping to break the cycle of homelessness.

The United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach began operating the Homeless Mental Health Program (HMHP) at the Villages at Cabrillo following the receipt of \$400,000 in Emergency Shelter Funds in 2007. The building housing the Homeless Mental Health Program is located at 2280 Williams Avenue. The original ESF grant funded the program at a capacity of 10 beds. The program is currently operating at a capacity of 22 beds due to the receipt of a one-time private grant. The current funding request in the amount of \$200,000 will allow the program to continue to operate at its original capacity of 10 beds. It is projected that the program will serve 20 veterans over the course of the year.

Clinical staff from the Veterans Administration and case management staff are located at the Villages at Cabrillo with offices in or in close proximity to the building housing residents of the Homeless Mental Health Program. One on one case management and support is provided with case managers on site from 8 am to 8 pm, 5 days a week, and with resident assistants on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Upon admission to the HMHP, a case manager conducts a thorough assessment and an Anger and Conflict assessment for each veteran. The case manager then works with the veteran to develop a Benchmarks Action Plan, focusing on addressing specific problems, including medical, psychological, alcohol and drug issues, money management, family and social support deficiencies, and legal problems.

In addition to basic life skills, higher education and vocational training, when indicated, can be pursued through a variety of sources at the on-site Career Center, including local industries, Long Beach City College, an Employment Development Department Veterans Representative, VA Vocational Rehabilitation, and the local Workforce Development One-Stop system of the City of Long Beach.